COMMUNITY

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Latina leader helps drive engagement

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

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Michigan Unarmed Combat Sports !!!

Equipos de robótica en el suroeste de Detroit obtienen reconocimiento en competencias distritales, estatales y mundiales

Por Kaylee Razo

Desde enero, siete equipos de robótica del suroeste de Detroit han diseñado, programado y construido sus robots, preparándose para las competencias FIRST Robotics. El organizador de la competencia, denominada "Para la inspiración y el reconocimiento de la ciencia y la tecnología", facilita más de 200 competencias al año. Con esto, esperan ampliar el acceso de los jóvenes a las disciplinas STEM (ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas) a nivel mundial.

Las competencias distritales se llevaron a cabo el 29 de marzo en la escuela secundaria Renaissance. Allí, equipos de la escuela Western International, la Academia de las Américas, Cesar Chávez Academy, la escuela Detroit Cristo Rey, la escuela Voyageur College Preparatory, la Corporación de Desarrollo Hispano de Detroit y la Academia Hope of Detroit

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SW Detroit Robotics Teams Earn Recognition at District, State and World Competitions

Cesar Chavez Academy's High School Robotics team, the AzTech Eagles, after their successful performance at the FIRST State Robotics Competition. Photo taken by the AzTech Eagles robotics team

By Kaylee Razo

Since January, seven Southwest Detroit robotics teams have been designing, programming, and building their robots in preparation for the FIRST Robotics competitions. The organizer of the competition named "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology" facilitates over 200 competitions a year. Through this they hope to expand youth access to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) globally.

The district competitions took place on March 29th at Renaissance High School, where teams from Western International High School, Academy of the Americas, Cesar Chavez Academy High School, Detroit Cristo Rey High School, Voyageur College Preparatory High School, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation and Hope of Detroit Academy competed against 40 other teams for a spot at the state competition.

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New DPSCD School to be Built on the site of the former Wilson Elementary and Phoenix Academy

By Santiago Esparza

A new school is set to open in September 2027 in Southwest Detroit bringing a much needed educational center to the area.

The still unnamed $48 million school will educate 500 students in preschool through eighth grade on the site of the former Wilson Elementary School and Phoenix Multicultural Academy on Lane Street at Central Ave.

Three public sessions with the community have resulted in changes to the look of the school and its campus. Officials said classroom locations, the lunchroom and boiler room are the only aspects of the school in which the community did not have any direct input.

For example, the school initially was to be circular in shape but after speaking to residents, it now is shaped like a U set on its side. In addition, feedback from residents resulted in a name change. They wanted a fresh start, officials said.

"This is a community project," Machion Jackson, Detroit Public Schools deputy superintendent of operations and project manager for the school. "We are very excited. This is monumental for community involvement."

Jackson said previously when a school was designed, community input was not always solicited. She said the district wanted to make sure to have it for this school.

"At the end of the day, the community should have a stake in it," she said.

Residents have been asked to select colors for the school, the team name for athletics, mascot and the name of the school.

Requests for bids will be sent out to contractors within the next few weeks and the school will be ready for students when the school year begins in 2027, officials said.

The school building previously on the site was closed in 2016 due to poor test scores and dwindling enrollment. Shortly after that, it fell victim to vandalism, illegal scrappers and fires. In 2023, videos on social media showed the state of the structure and how easily it could be accessed.

It was demolished last year.

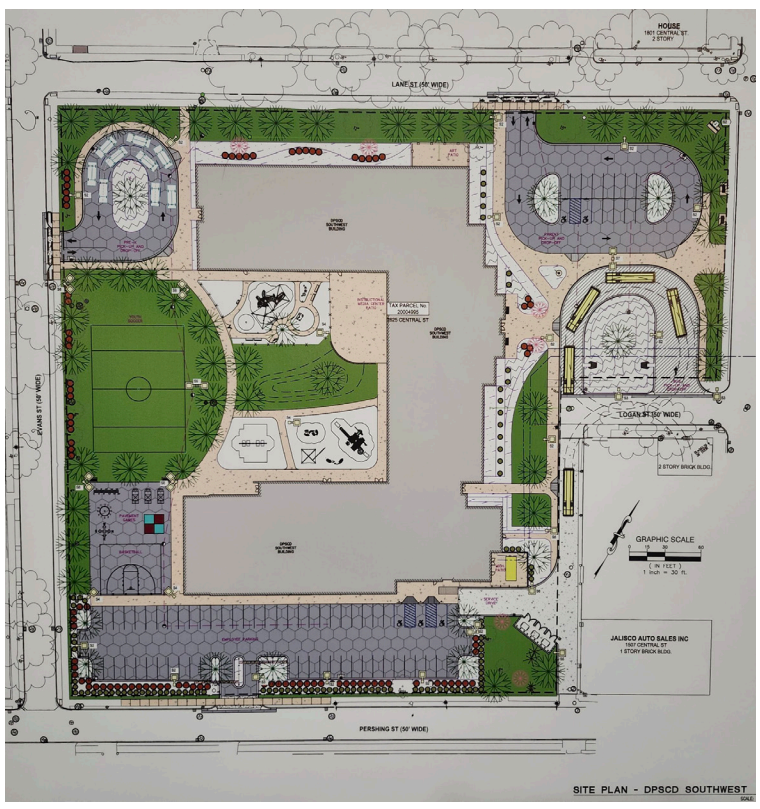
The closure of the school was a blow to the area, as many volunteers and boosters worked to get the basketball court paved and the transfer of playground equipment from a shuttered school transferred to the site. All of that work, valued about $150,000, was lost when the site was razed.

Christine Bell, executive director of the Urban Neighborhood Initiatives nonprofit that had deep ties with the Phoenix Academy, said the district is making the right moves in developing this school with community involvement.

The southern portion of the campus is facing a truck driving school. The plans call for positioning the new school and trees and plants in such a way as to prevent children having to look at trucks coming and going all day.

"They have been very thoughtful about how students can not have to look at a trucking company all day," She said. "It says something about an area when you build a new school."

The school is part of $700 million in upgrades the district has undertaken and to be completed in stages. The undertakings started when the district emerged from state oversight and heated up during shutdowns due to the COVID pandemic and started after public input.



New DPSCD school in Southwest Detroit Site Plan

Jessica Miller Ramirez, a community activist and resource contact at nearby Bennett Elementary School on Mullane, said the neighborhood has been waiting for another school.

"I am glad to see the property is not going to stay sitting," she said. "We need this. We really need it."

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Bringing Community to the Forefront: Latina Leader Helps Drive Community Engagement at Michigan Central

By Martina Guzmán • Photos by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

On the evening of February 19, 2024, Detroit's Michigan Central projected "6/6/24" in blue numbers across the north and south entrances of the 550-foot-wide building. The date, which could be seen from miles away, was set for the grand opening of the five-year, $950 million renovation of the former train station—the most anticipated development project in Detroit in more than fifty years.

For Alondra Alvizo, associate director of community engagement at Michigan Central, having the date of the grand opening projected not only on the north side of the building but on the south side facing Mexicantown was as exciting as it was personal. Michigan Central had projected many things on the building, but always on the side facing Corktown, never on the side facing the Latino community.

"I brought the idea up in a staff meeting," Alvizo said. "Originally, we were only going to do 'June 6 on the north [facing Roosevelt Park],' and I asked if we could project it in Spanish on the south side, but instead we projected 6/6/24 on both sides." In Southwest Detroit, people stopped to stare at the projection, the first time the owners of the building had spoken directly to them. Many got out of their cars to take photos. Social media erupted with the news.

Juan Carlos Gutierrez, 28, whose family has called Southwest Detroit home since 1995, happened to be walking outside when he spotted the projection. He said seeing the date displayed brought him a sense of palpable excitement.

"I was happy that both sides of the train station were included in the projection. The Corktown side gets all the publicity, and it feels like our side is forgotten, like it's in the shadow," Gutierrez said.

Alvizo grew up in the city's Mexican community and knew what Michigan Central meant to Southwest Detroiters. The train station has been a towering presence in the heart of a thriving Latino community that for decades watched its slow, painful decline.

As a teen, she remembers driving past Michigan Central daily to attend Consortium College Preparatory High School.

"I would be in the passenger seat and think, this is crazy. Who owns this building? Who will take ownership of this building, and why isn't it fixed? I always had all these questions about it," she said.

In 2023, five years after Ford Motor Company purchased the train station, Michigan Central posted a job opening for associate director of community engagement. With just eleven months until the grand opening, there was still plenty to be done.

Alvizo was working as the program director for Detroit Means Business at the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation and was interested in the job.

"It seemed like all the things I love to do: being in communities, talking to people, and thinking through creative problem-solving and innovation work," Alvizo said.

Michigan Central's executives wanted a strategic thinker—someone who could help advance their vision of fostering community relationships and transforming Michigan Central into a hub for mobility, technology, and entrepreneurship while attracting startups.

Seventy-five people applied for the job, but Alvizo, a 27-year-old Latina, stood out for her ability to speak about innovation as a way to dismantle barriers.

"Hiring Alondra was the best decision we made," said Cornetta Lane-Smith, director of community engagement at Michigan Central. "She had a grasp of how to move something from not existing to existing, and we needed someone who could think tactically about projects in that way."

Days after starting her new job, Alvizo stepped into Michigan Central for the first time. She was struck by the grandeur of the 120-year-old beaux-arts building. Michigan Central's dramatic interior was still under construction. Its grand hall, which spans 19,500 square feet, was encased in scaffolding, and thousands of skilled workers—many specializing in historic preservation—labored tirelessly to complete the highly anticipated landmark.

"I remember walking through the east entrance in just deep awe, knowing how many people had to come together to make this happen," Alvizo said. "What an honor and privilege of a lifetime to be able to give this building back to Detroiters."

Alvizo started at Michigan Central by building systems around project management to streamline the work ahead.

Lane-Smith said, "Michigan Central is a startup, so there are a lot of things that we are still building. So when Alondra came in, she was like, okay, where are all the documents? Where is the structure? Where are the things? And we didn't have any of that. Alondra came along and built some of that infrastructure to help us be organized and for us to keep track of all the things that we have to do," she said.

Beyond building infrastructure, one of Alvizo's first initiatives as the new associate director of community engagement was to work on the newsletter, which opened a direct line to the surrounding community so she could inform people of what was happening at Michigan Central.

The bilingual publication is distributed in both print and email. As a Spanish speaker, Alvizo noticed that the marketing firm's translations used formal, corporate Spanish that didn't truly capture the community's voice.

"We switched our vendors to make sure that more money was going to local community folks to do this translation work," Alvizo said. "People don't often think about budgeting for translation, but it's an important component."

Alvizo, who holds a master's degree in urban planning, is passionate about the role small businesses play in creating walkable neighborhoods, particularly in Southwest Detroit, where she grew up.

So when the Mexicantown Main Street program, an initiative of the Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA) aimed at helping small businesses enhance and beautify their facades, faced an uncertain future, Alvizo advocated for funding to support the program.

"I was the primary champion of investing in the Mexicantown Main Street program at SDBA through the community benefits agreement commitments. I had been in this role for about four months when I advocated for this investment," Alvizo said.

SDBA didn't have direct funding for the Main Street program. "The $150,000 grant from Michigan Central allowed us to hire José Maldonado to be a full-time director," said Greg Mangan, real estate advocate at SDBA.

Mangan says the money "helps improve the facades of older legacy buildings, commercial facades that are more inviting for the community. Somewhere where kids walk by and don't have bars on the windows, where there are nicer awnings instead of defensive architecture, where it looks like they are trying to keep people out instead of inviting people in."

Mangan says that four businesses have been awarded facade improvement grants so far.

June will mark one year since Michigan Central opened to the public. As for Alvizo, she is excited to continue to work closely with the community. She also wants to bring culturally relevant programming to the station, like hosting a Loteria night.

"I call her the daughter of Southwest," says her boss, Cornetta Lane-Smith. "She has the respect of everybody. Not only is she a charismatic person, and a smart person, but she's also a person who is well-connected and knows how to tie all the pieces together. She's a weaver."

Alvizo standing on the south side of Michigan Central, pointing to the date of the grand opening.

Martina Guzmán is an award-winning journalist and the director of the Race & Justice Reporting Initiative at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School.

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News is partially funded by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news

SIXTH IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS OF DETROIT MAYORAL CANDIDATES 2025
SEXTO DE UNA SERIE DE ENTREVISTAS DE CANDIDATOS A LA ALCALDÍA DE DETROIT 2025

Esta historia fue publicada originalmente en inglés por Axios Detroit.
La hemos publicado en español con autorización.

Campaña electoral de Rogelio Landín para la alcaldía de Detroit

Por Annalise Frank | Axios Detroit | Reimpreso con autorización | Traducción Carmen Elena Luna

Rogelio Landín es un activista y empresario de larga trayectoria, que si ganara la candidatura, asumiría el control del distrito escolar público.

Panorama general: La entrevista de Axios con Landín es la más reciente de nuestra serie de entrevistas a candidatos a la alcaldía sobre sus prioridades políticas.

- Landín y otros candidatos que no han ocupado cargos públicos electivos buscan impulsar el gobierno municipal desde el exterior.
- La contienda culmina con una primaria en agosto, donde los dos candidatos más votados se enfrentarán en noviembre.

Retrospectiva: La trayectoria de Landín, oriundo de Detroit, abarca desde un extenso trabajo local y nacional por los derechos civiles de los latinos hasta juntas directivas de organizaciones sin fines de lucro, desarrollo laboral y consultoría con escuelas sobre diversidad y competencia cultural.

- Landín, de 71 años, formó parte de la coalición Nuevo Detroit, formada para generar un cambio en respuesta al levantamiento de 1967 cuando tenía poco más de 20 años.
- Landín también ha formado parte de cinco consejos asesores vecinales (grupos de residentes que negocian beneficios con grandes promotoras inmobiliarias) y lidera la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos a nivel local.
- Se postuló para el Concejo Municipal en cuatro ocasiones entre las décadas de 1980 y 2000.

Nos comparte: Landín afirma que decidió postularse porque tiene una amplia experiencia en las áreas en Detroit que necesitan ayuda: educación, vivienda y desarrollo laboral.

- "He intentado todo lo que sé para darles ideas a la gente", afirma. "Llegué al punto en que nada de eso ha funcionado, en que la única manera de implementar lo que he trabajado durante 20 o 30 años es hacerlo yo mismo, en nombre de las personas a las que les he dedicado mi vida".

Situación actual: Landín fue noticia por su deseo como alcalde de intentar anexar 28 municipios con dificultades financieras del área metropolitana de Detroit, someterlos a la administración de Detroit y utilizar los recursos combinados para resolver problemas como la vivienda y el transporte público.

- Considera la idea de "una solución sostenible a largo plazo para generar más ingresos" y recursos del gobierno federal al convertirse en una ciudad de más de un millón de habitantes.
- Al preguntársele por qué las comunidades aceptarían ser anexadas, Landín respondió que, si tuvieran una solución a sus propios problemas, ya lo habrían hecho.
- "Asumiré toda la responsabilidad de argumentar económicamente por qué esto beneficia a todos", añadió.

En otra postura audaz, Landín quiere usar su experiencia en educación y poner el Distrito Comunitario de las Escuelas Públicas de Detroit bajo la administración de la alcaldía. Está administrado por separado por un superintendente.

- La idea de que el alcalde administre el distrito en dificultades fue propuesta por el exgobernador John Engler en 2017, según The News, pero el estado y la ciudad intentaron un enfoque similar a finales de la década de 1990 y los votantes lo rechazaron después de unos años.

Entre líneas: Landín quiere centrarse en el empoderamiento financiero para que los habitantes de Detroit puedan acceder a la vivienda que desean, en lugar de centrarse únicamente en la construcción de viviendas asequibles.

- También quiere considerar la construcción de un World Trade Center en el Renaissance Center.
- Asimismo, quiere desarrollar el puerto de Detroit y mejorar la posición de la ciudad como un importante centro logístico para el transporte ferroviario, de carga, aéreo y terrestre.

Contexto: Un tema central de la campaña para la alcaldía son las grandes empresas y la comunidad: equilibrar los diversos intereses y necesidades de quienes afectan y se ven afectados por la evolución de Detroit. Un ejemplo destacado de esta dinámica es la Ordenanza de Beneficios Comunitarios (CBO), un proceso en el que los promotores inmobiliarios que reciben cierto nivel de recursos públicos deben reunirse con un consejo de residentes y redactar un acuerdo que beneficie al vecindario en torno a su proyecto.

- Afirma que en los procesos de CBO, las corporaciones que buscan emprender grandes proyectos "no le quitan nada a la comunidad", como argumentan algunos críticos.
- Recuperan terrenos no utilizados y utilizan incentivos fiscales basados en el rendimiento, no "regalos", afirmó.

En resumen: Le preguntamos sobre una cualidad que aportaría como alcalde que lo diferenciara de otros candidatos.

- "La profundidad y amplitud de mi experiencia", dijo, y agregó que podría convocar a las partes interesadas, al igual que a cualquier otro candidato.
- También mencionó su experiencia en la formación de coaliciones y que es el único candidato no afroamericano. "Tenemos la oportunidad de formar una coalición urbana nacional entre afroamericanos e hispanos para abordar los resultados de las elecciones de 2028 en adelante, y así es como recuperaremos nuestro gobierno".

Detroit Mayor's Race Sit-Down: Rogelio Landin

By Annalise Frank / Axios Detroit / Reprinted with permission

If longtime activist and businessman Rogelio Landin became mayor, he'd plan to assume control of the public school district.

The big picture: Axios' interview with Landin is the latest in our series interviewing mayoral candidates on their policy priorities.

- Landin and other candidates who haven't held elected public office before aim to bring outside energy to city government.
- The race culminates in a primary in August, with the top two candidates facing off in November.

Flashback: Detroit native Landin's history in the city stretches from extensive local and national Latino civil rights work to nonprofit boards, workforce development and consulting with schools on diversity and cultural competency.

- Landin, 71, was part of the New Detroit coalition formed to create change in response to the 1967 uprising when in his early 20s.
- Landin has also been on five neighborhood advisory councils — resident groups that negotiate benefits with big developers — and leads the League of United Latin American Citizens locally.
- He has run for City Council four times between the 1980s and 2000s.

What he's saying: Landin says he decided to run because he has extensive experience in the areas where Detroit needs help: education, housing and workforce development.

- "I have tried everything I know to give people ideas," he says. "I got to the point where none of that has worked, that the only way I can implement these things I've been working on for 20–30 years was to do it myself, on behalf of the people I've dedicated my life to."

State of play: Landin made headlines for his desire as mayor to attempt to annex 28 financially distressed municipalities in Metro Detroit, bring them under Detroit's governance and use the combined resources to solve problems like housing and transit.

- He calls the idea a "long-term, sustainable solution to generating more revenue" and resources from the federal government by becoming a city of more than a million residents.
- Asked why the communities would agree to be annexed, Landin said if they had a way out of their own problems, they would have done it by now.
- "I will take full responsibility for making the economic case of why this works for everybody," he adds.

In another bold stance, Landin wants to use his experience in education and bring the Detroit Public Schools Community District under the mayor's office. It's run separately by a superintendent.

The core premises of Landin's campaign are education and workforce.

- The idea for the mayor to run the struggling district was floated by former Gov. John Engler in 2017, per the News, but the state and city tried a similar approach in the late 1990s and voters rejected it after a few years.

Between the lines: Landin wants to focus on financial empowerment so Detroiters can afford the housing they want, as opposed to focusing solely on building affordable housing.

- He also wants to consider putting a World Trade Center in the Renaissance Center.
- Also, he wants to develop Detroit's port and improve the city's standing as a major logistics hub for rail, freight, air travel and ground transportation.

Context: One theme of the mayor's race is big business and community — balancing the varied interests and needs of those affecting and affected by how Detroit is evolving. One prominent example of that dynamic is the community benefits ordinance (CBO), a process in which developers receiving a certain level of public resources have to host meetings with a resident council and draft an agreement providing benefits to the neighborhood around their project.

- He says that in CBO processes, corporations looking to take on big projects "didn't take anything from the community," as some critics argue.
- They bring unused sites back into use and use performance-based tax incentives, not "giveaways," he said.

The bottom line: We asked Landin about a quality he would bring as mayor that is different from other candidates.

- "The depth and breadth of my experience," he said, adding that he could convene stakeholders as well as any other candidate.
- He also brought up his coalition-building experience, and that he's the only non-Black candidate. "We have an opportunity to form a national urban coalition between Blacks and Hispanics to address the outcomes of elections in 2028 and moving forward, and that's how we take back our government."

Southwest Detroit Robotics Teams

Con't from pg. 1

From these teams, AOA, CCA, and DCRHS advanced to the state championships at Saginaw Valley State University on April 5th. There, they competed alongside 160 of Michigan's top teams. At the state competition, CCA earned a spot in the coveted World Championships. These championships will be held on April 19, in Houston, Texas, where CCA will compete with over 1,000 robotics teams from nearly 60 countries.

The theme of this year's competition was "Reefscape," focusing on ocean preservation. Teams were tasked with collecting coral (white pipes) and placing them on four levels of a reef, harvesting algae (teel balls) on their processors and nets, and hanging their robots on barge cages.

To complete these complex tasks, teams designed a series of specialized mechanisms, including elevators to lift coral up to 40 inches high, limelight detectors to align with QR codes, grippers to lift and place algae and coral, and specialized wheels for mobility.

Each team divided itself by responsibilities such as programming, mechanical work, robot driving and business operations. Anthony, a student from Western International High School's Mechanical Pumas team explained that team members as young as 14 often self-learn complex coding languages like JavaScript and C++ to program their robots. The driving team who ensures the robot moves swiftly and effectively across the arena utilize transformed gaming controllers and joysticks to move their robot. The mechanical team uses sophisticated software like Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and tools such as mills, latches, drills, and saws for manufacturing and assembling the robot's features. Lastly, the business team focuses on fundraising, grant writing, merchandise design, and outreach.

Fernando, a member of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation's REC'in Crew team shared that the various opportunities in robotics allow team members to "transition between different parts of the team and discover what they're passionate about."

Mahmoud Badih, a math teacher at Hope of Detroit Academy, emphasized the importance of the variety of skills needed to compete, explaining that Southwest Detroit students need more exposure to different career opportunities. He says, "Most students will say that they want to work in construction with their family, but then they're introduced to engineering, coding, and business."

For many students, robotics opened doors to new career interests. Marisol is a member of AOA's Tech Tigers and will be the first in her family to go to college. She says that robotics sparked her interest in engineering, a career she hopes to pursue after graduation. Similarly, Anthony Sanchez from Western International High School's team was able to work on both the mechanical and business sides of robotics. This, he says, helped him realize that while engineering wasn't for him, business was.

Apart from career introduction and skills development, robotics also allows students to develop "life skills," says Marisol Techworth, the Youth Engagement Director at DHDC. She explains that robotics helps youth develop essential skills such as "overcoming failure, solving problems, and communicating and collaborating with others."

Many students have also used robotics as a way to give back to the community. Tania and Alex are members of Detroit Cristo Rey's Kinematic Wolves team and helped found the Motor City Alliance. Through this program, they help extend access to STEM and robotics education to over 100 robotics teams in Detroit. They facilitate week-long summer programs and camps, teach 3D printing, computer design, and programming, and work with boards and councils in the Detroit Public Schools Department to advocate for more STEM classes and programs in Detroit middle and high schools.

These students are not just building robots; they are building and strengthening the future of our community. By devoting countless hours to their craft, sometimes working until 7 or 9 PM after classes, they are developing essential skills for success. Their accomplishments highlight the importance of investing in our youth and believing in their potential.

Cesar Chavez's Aztech Eagles are only an example of how support, mentorship, and funding can change the lives of youth. They have worked countless hours to earn their spot in the World Championships. Now they will compete in Houston, Texas on April 19th along with 1,000 other robotics teams. EL CENTRAL will follow them on their journey and report their experience.

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Kaylee Razo is a high school senior at Detroit Cristo Rey High School and a passionate advocate. She is the co-chair of Strangers No Longer's Youth Council (Youth in Action for Immigration) and a mentor at the Michigan Youth Civil Rights Academy.

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News is partially funded by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news

Equipos de robótica en el suroeste de Detroit

Con't de pg. 1

Compitieron contra otros 40 equipos por un lugar en la competencia estatal.

De estos equipos, AOA, CCA y DCRHS avanzaron al campeonato estatal en la Universidad Saginaw Valley State el 5 de abril. Allí compitieron junto a 160 de los mejores equipos de Michigan. En la competencia estatal, CCA se ganó un lugar en el codiciado Campeonato Mundial. Este campeonato se celebrará el 19 de abril en Houston, Texas, donde CCA competirá con más de 1000 equipos de robótica de casi 60 países.

El tema de la competencia de este año era "Reefscape", centrado en la preservación del océano. Los equipos debían recolectar coral (tubos blancos) y colocarlos en cuatro niveles de un arrecife, recolectar algas (bolas de acero) en sus procesadores y redes, y colgar sus robots en jaulas de barcaza.

Para completar estas complejas tareas, los equipos diseñaron una serie de mecanismos especializados, incluyendo elevadores para elevar el coral hasta 101 cm de altura, detectores de luz para alinearlos con códigos QR, pinzas para levantar y colocar algas y coral, y ruedas especializadas para la movilidad.

Cada equipo se dividió en responsabilidades como programación, trabajo mecánico, conducción de robots y operaciones comerciales. Anthony, estudiante del equipo Pumas Mecánicos de la Escuela Western International, explicó que los miembros del equipo, desde los 14 años, suelen aprender por sí mismos lenguajes de programación complejos como JavaScript y C++ para programar sus robots. El equipo de conducción, que se asegura de que el robot se mueva con rapidez y eficacia por la arena, utiliza controladores de juego y joysticks transformados para moverlo. El equipo mecánico utiliza software sofisticado como Diseño Asistido por Computadora (CAD) y herramientas como fresadoras, pestillos, taladros y sierras para fabricar y ensamblar las características del robot. Por último, el equipo de negocios se centra en la recaudación de fondos, la solicitud de subvenciones, el diseño de productos y la difusión.

Fernando, miembro del equipo REC'in Crew de la Corporación de Desarrollo Hispano de Detroit, comentó que las diversas oportunidades en robótica permiten a los miembros del equipo "transicionar entre diferentes partes del equipo y descubrir lo que les apasiona".

Mahmoud Badih, profesor de matemáticas en la Academia Hope of Detroit, enfatizó la importancia de la variedad de habilidades necesarias para competir, y explicó que los estudiantes del suroeste de Detroit necesitan más exposición a diferentes oportunidades profesionales. Él dice: "La mayoría de los estudiantes dicen que quieren trabajar en la construcción con su familia, pero luego se les presenta la ingeniería, la programación y los negocios".

Para muchos estudiantes, la robótica les abrió las puertas a nuevos intereses profesionales. Marisol es miembro de los Tigres Tecnológicos de AOA y será la primera de su familia en ir a la universidad. Ella dice que la robótica despertó su interés por la ingeniería, una carrera que espera seguir después de graduarse. De igual manera, Anthony Sánchez, del equipo de la Escuela Western International, pudo trabajar tanto en la mecánica como en los negocios de la robótica. Esto, dice, le ayudó a darse cuenta de que si bien la ingeniería no era para él, los negocios sí lo eran.

Además de la introducción a la carrera profesional y el desarrollo de habilidades, la robótica también permite a los estudiantes desarrollar "habilidades para la vida", dice Marisol Techworth, Directora de Participación Juvenil en DHDC. Ella explica que la robótica ayuda a los jóvenes a desarrollar habilidades esenciales como "superar el fracaso, resolver problemas y comunicarse y colaborar con los demás".

Muchos estudiantes también han usado la robótica como una forma de contribuir a la comunidad. Tania y Alex son miembros del equipo Kinematic Wolves de Detroit Cristo Rey y ayudaron a fundar Motor City Alliance. A través de este programa, ayudan a ampliar el acceso a la educación STEM y robótica a más de 100 equipos de robótica en Detroit. Facilitan programas y campamentos de verano de una semana de duración, enseñan impresión 3D, diseño de computadoras y programación, y colaboran con las juntas y consejos del Departamento de Escuelas Públicas de Detroit para promover más clases y programas STEM en las escuelas secundarias y preparatorias de Detroit.

Estos estudiantes no solo construyen robots; construyen y fortalecen el futuro de nuestra comunidad. Al dedicar incontables horas a su oficio, a veces trabajando hasta las 7 o 9 p. m. después de clases, desarrollan habilidades esenciales para el éxito. Su alojamiento Los logros resaltan la importancia de invertir en nuestros jóvenes y creer en su potencial.

Las Águilas Aztech de César Chávez son solo un ejemplo de cómo el apoyo, la mentoría y la financiación pueden cambiar la vida de los jóvenes. Han trabajado incontables horas para ganarse un lugar en el Campeonato Mundial. Ahora competirán en Houston, Texas, el 19 de abril junto con otros 1,000 equipos de robótica. EL CENTRAL los seguirá en su camino y compartirá su experiencia.

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Kaylee Razo es una estudiante de último año en la Escuela Secundaria Cristo Rey de Detroit y una defensora apasionada. Es copresidenta del Consejo Juvenil de Strangers No Longer (Jóvenes en Acción por la Inmigración) y mentora en la Academia de Derechos Civiles Juveniles de Michigan.

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News está parcialmente financiado por Press Forward, el movimiento nacional para fortalecer las comunidades revitalizando las noticias locales. Más información en www.pressforward.news

Photo of the district competition at Renaissance High School, featuring a crowd of 40 robotics teams. Some teams competed in the arena, others cheered from the bleachers, while a few worked on their robots in the pits. Photo by Kaylee Razo

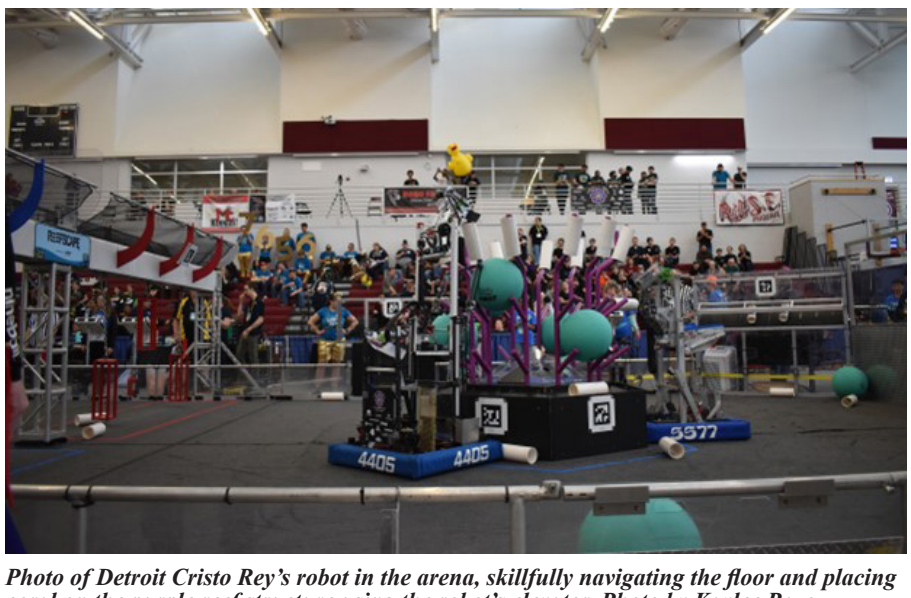


Photo of Detroit Cristo Rey's robot in the arena, skillfully navigating the floor and placing coral on the purple reef structure using the robot's elevator. Photo by Kaylee Razo

New DPSCD School to be Built

Con't from pg. 1

The campus incorporates areas broken out by age of students where parents can drop off or pick up children and avoid backing up traffic on side streets or main thoroughfares. When traffic stacks up on streets, it makes it unsafe for kids who walk or ride a bike to and from school, officials said

The campus retains a large green space that will be home to a basketball court, a soccer field and a playground area. The school building, along with trees and fencing, will keep those driving by from having an easy peek at students playing or studying at outdoor areas for art classes or media classes.

The 75,000 square-foot school incorporates windows and glass to make it bright inside and provide lots of natural lighting. Halls and rooms will be color coded so students know where they need to be for their classes.

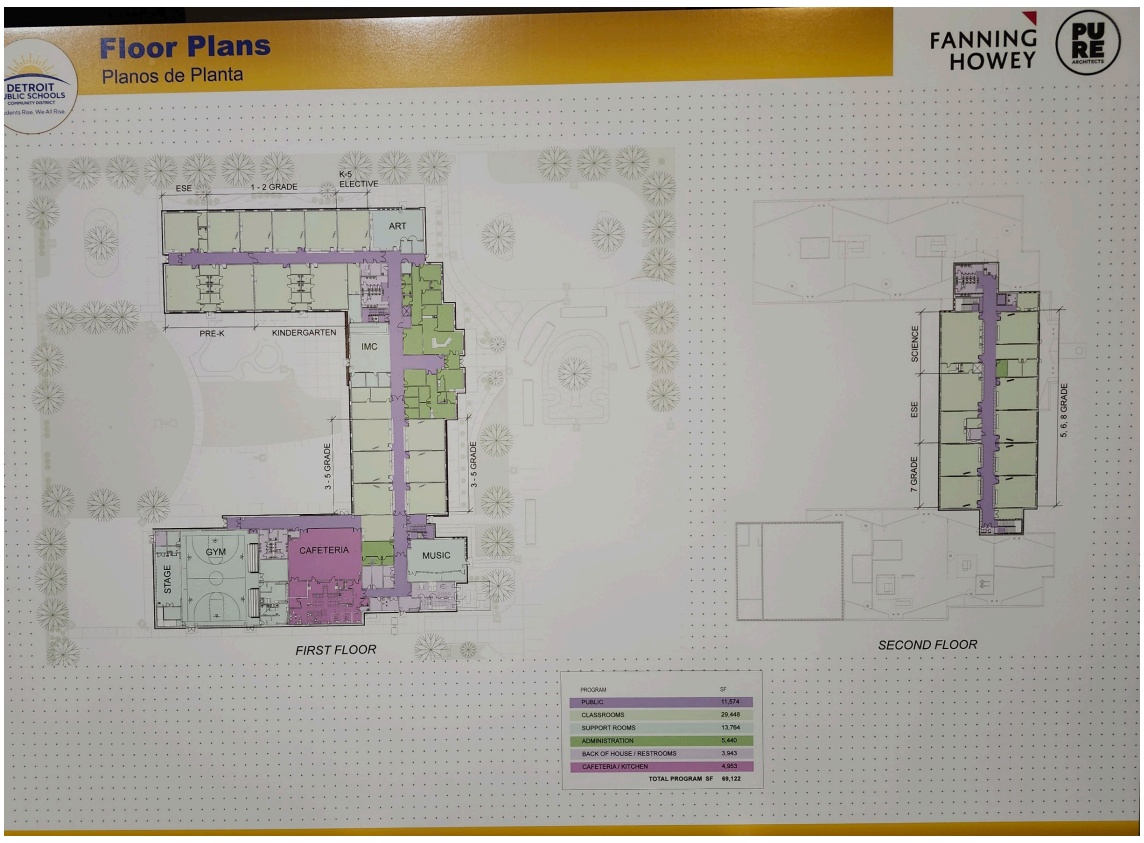
Trees and plant species were selected to help reduce air pollution from area traffic and the truck driving school.

The design also takes advantage of the nearby Joe Louis Greenway and will incorporate benches and walking/biking paths to link the projects. The greenway is a 27.5-mile trail that runs from the Detroit Riverfront to Dearborn, Highland Park and Hamtramck.

Miller Ramirez and Bell said they hope to have close ties with the new school. Designers said the new school has areas that could be used for after-hours functions like community meetings.

DPS board member Angelique Peterson-Mayberry attended an April 2 public meeting about the school and praised the project, but said the driving force for it to succeed will come from community involvement.

"I am excited to put shovel to ground for something we all know the community needs," she said.



New DPSCD school in Southwest Detroit Floor Plan

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Santiago Esparza is a Detroit-based freelance writer. He is a native of Southwest Detroit

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News is partially funded by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news

Tips to prepare for tax season and a potential tax refund

By Star Crawford
Senior Vice President and Local Market Executive for Bank of America Detroit

Tax season is upon us, and with it comes the usual sense of dread that many experience at this time of year. However, there's several steps that can be taken to mitigate these feelings of financial unease. By planning ahead and avoiding common missteps, taxpayers can reduce stress and potentially save money. Always speak to a tax professional about your specific situation.

Here's some tips for tackling your taxes like a pro this year:

Gather the right paperwork – Your tax forms should have arrived by February, so keep an eye out if you haven't already received. W-2s show earnings and tax withholdings for full-time employees, while 1099s report freelance or contract income. You might also get forms for investment earnings, student loan interest, or tuition payments—all of which can impact your taxes.

Watch your deadlines – Filing early helps you avoid last-minute stress and even protects you against tax fraud. But before you submit, make sure you've received all your documents — like forms for childcare expenses, student loan interest, or tax credits — so you don't miss out on potential savings.

• Pro Tip: If you need extra time, you can file for an extension until October, but keep in mind that any taxes owed are still due by April 15 to avoid penalties.

Protect yourself from tax fraud – Unfortunately, tax season is a prime time for scammers trying to steal personal information and refunds. Reduce your risk by filing early, using strong passwords for online tax filing, and never sharing financial details unless you've verified the source. When in doubt, don't give it out. If something feels off—like getting a tax refund notice when you haven't filed yet—reach out to the IRS right away.

Tackle debt or build your emergency fund – A tax refund might feel like extra spending money, but putting it toward your financial health can make a big difference. If you have high-interest debt, like credit cards, using your refund to pay it down can save you a lot in interest.

If debt isn't a major concern, consider boosting an emergency fund. An emergency fund is your financial safety net, set aside for unexpected expenses like medical bills, car repairs, or job loss. Aim to save anywhere from three months to a year's worth of living expenses, but even a small start with your refund can provide peace of mind.

Invest in your future – Once your immediate needs are covered, think about how your refund can support your long-term goals. Consider putting some of it toward retirement savings—whether it's adding to your 401(k) or opening an IRA. You could also put it toward a personal goal, like saving for a down payment on a house, starting a business, or even funding your dream vacation. A little planning now can turn your refund into long-term financial security.

Star Crawford - Senior Vice President and Local Market Executive for Bank of America Detroit

Note: Readers should consult a tax professional for questions about their personal situation.

Tips to prepare for tax season and a potential tax refund

Por Star Crawford
Vicepresidente sénior y ejecutivo de mercado local de Bank of America en Detroit

Estamos en plena temporada de impuestos y para muchos estadounidenses, prepararse para presentar la declaración de impuestos puede ser agobiante. Según una encuesta reciente de Bank of América, el 71% de los encuestados anticipan que la inflación y los altos costos de vida afectarán su situación financiera este año, lo que añade presión. Sin embargo, al planificar con anticipación y evitar errores comunes, los contribuyentes pueden reducir el estrés e incluso pueden ahorrar dinero.

Estaría encantado de conectarlo con un representante del banco para compartir consejos sobre cómo aprovechar al máximo cualquier posible reembolso y navegar por la temporada de impuestos de la manera mas fluida.

Reúna los documentos indicados: sus formularios de impuestos deberían llegar en febrero, así que esté pendiente si aún no los ha recibido. Los formularios W-2 muestran los ingresos y las retenciones de impuestos de los empleados a tiempo completo, mientras que los formularios 1099 detallan los ingresos por trabajo independiente o por contrato. También podría recibir formularios para los ingresos por inversiones, intereses de préstamos para estudiantes o para pagos de matrícula, los cuales pueden afectar sus impuestos. Tener todo listo ahora hará que la presentación de la declaración sea más fácil cuando llegue la primavera.

Esté pendiente de las fechas límite: presentar la declaración con anticipación le ayuda a evitar el estrés de última hora e incluso le protege contra el fraude fiscal, pero antes de enviarla, asegúrese de haber recibido todos sus documentos, como los formularios para gastos del cuidado infantil, de intereses de préstamos para estudiantes o de créditos fiscales, para no perderse de posibles ahorros.

• Consejo profesional: si necesita más tiempo, puede solicitar una extensión hasta octubre, pero tenga en cuenta que los impuestos adeudados deben pagarse antes del 15 de abril para evitar penalizaciones.

Protéjase del fraude fiscal: lamentablemente, la temporada de impuestos es un buen momento para los estafadores que intentan robar información personal y devoluciones. Reduzca el riesgo al presentar su declaración de impuestos con anticipación, utilizar contraseñas seguras para la declaración de impuestos en línea y nunca compartir detalles financieros a menos que haya verificado la fuente. Si tiene alguna duda, no proporcione ninguna información. Si algo le parece extraño, como recibir un aviso de devolución de impuestos cuando aún no ha presentado su declaración, comuníquese de inmediato con el IRS (Internal Revenue Service).

Aborde las deudas o establezca un fondo para emergencias: una devolución de impuestos puede parecer dinero extra que puede gastar, pero destinarlo a su salud financiera puede marcar una gran diferencia. Si tiene deudas con intereses altos, como de tarjetas de crédito, usar su devolución para pagarlas puede ahorrarle mucho dinero en intereses. Si la deuda no le preocupa tanto, considere aumentar su fondo para emergencias. Un fondo para emergencias es su red de seguridad financiera, reservada para gastos inesperados como facturas médicas, reparaciones del automóvil o la pérdida del empleo. Propóngase ahorrar entre tres meses y un año de gastos básicos, pero tan solo comenzar con su devolución puede darle tranquilidad.

Invierta en su futuro: una vez que cubra sus necesidades principales, piense en cómo su devolución puede respaldar sus metas a largo plazo. Considere destinar una parte a los ahorros para la jubilación, ya sea aportando a su plan 401(k) o abriendo una Cuenta IRA. También podría destinarlo a una meta personal, como ahorrar para el pago inicial de una casa, iniciar un negocio o incluso financiar las vacaciones de sus sueños. Un poco de planificación en el presente puede convertir su devolución en seguridad financiera a largo plazo.

Nota: Los lectores deben consultar a un profesional de impuestos si tienen preguntas sobre su situación personal.

Diles que lo Viste en *EL CENTRAL*

Tell them you saw it in *EL CENTRAL*

Detroit Tigers Defeat Chicago White Sox At Comerica Park for their Home Opener

The Detroit Tigers opened the 2025 season at home, this past Friday, hosting the Chicago White Sox.

A packed Comerica Park (44,735 - fans / 11th Highest in Comerica History) came out to watch the Tigers.

Local American comedian, actor, producer and writer, Keegan-Michael Key, threw out the ceremonial first pitch during Opening Day.

Fans were treated to a 7 - 4 victory over the White Sox on Friday, with designated hitter Spencer Torkelson hitting a 423-foot home run, in the 7th inning.

Torkelson started opening day with 4 walks before hitting that home run, and is the first player since 1901 to have one homer and four walks on Opening Day.

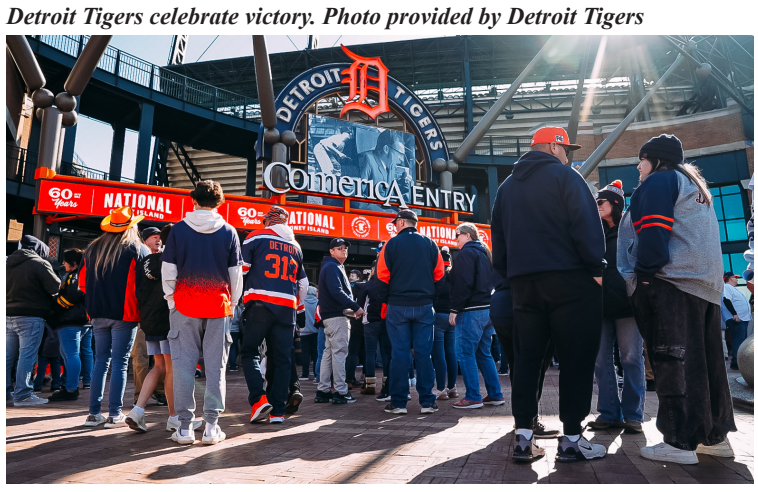
As of Tuesday, the Tigers are 5-0 at home, by defeating the New York Yankees 5-0, on Tuesday afternoon.

The Detroit Tigers go on the road, Friday, April 11th to take on the Minnesota Twins, before coming back home, on Thursday, April 18th to host the Kansas City Royals.

Photo provided by Keegan-Michael Key's Instagram

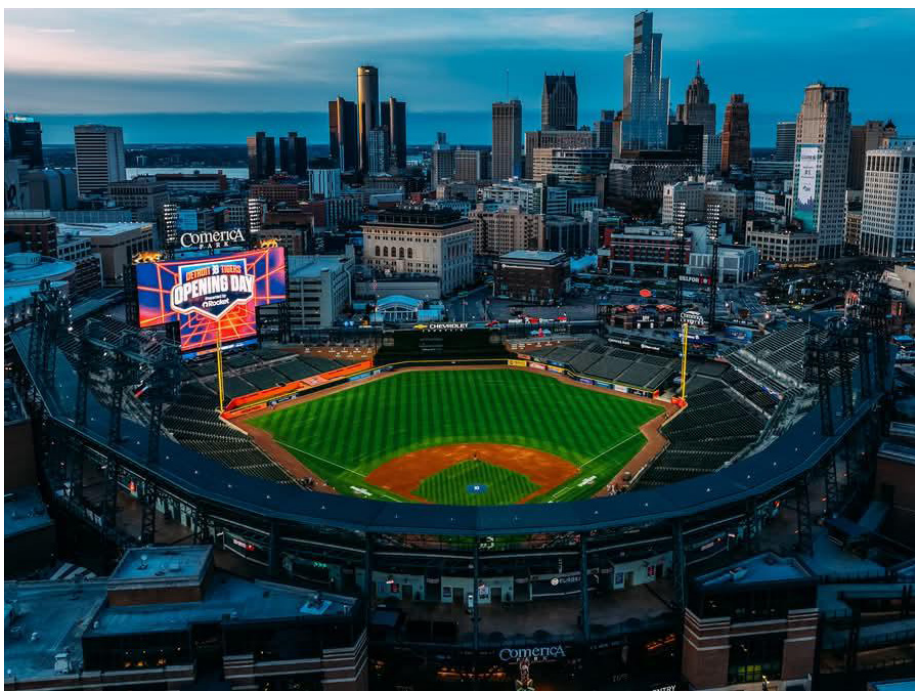
Ty Alberts, age 10, from Cascade, MI proudly holds a souvenir baseball passed to him by Tiger pitching coach Chris Fetter.
Photo by Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL

Detroit Tigers celebrate victory. Photo provided by Detroit Tigers



Fans waiting to enter Comerica Park on Opening Day. Photo provided by Detroit Tigers

Fans pack Comerica Park for Opening Day.
Photo by Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL



Comerica Park with Opening Day sign on scoreboard. Photo provided by Detroit Tigers

SHPE College Fair Announcement

Hosted by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers – Detroit Chapter, the 4th Annual College Fair will take place on April 12, 2025 (10 AM - 2 PM) at La Casa Guadalupana in Southwest Detroit. This event provides essential resources for students and families, ensuring they have the support needed to succeed in higher education.

Attendees can explore booths from colleges including Davenport University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Wayne State University, University of Detroit Mercy, Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford Community College, Central Michigan University, Oakland University, and College for Creative Studies. The event will also feature hands-on STEM activities, bilingual FAFSA workshops, and a Hispanic professional panel inspiring students to pursue STEM careers.

For details and registration, visit https://college-fair.eventbrite.com

SHPE Anuncio de la feria universitaria

Organizado por la Sociedad de Ingenieros Profesionales Hispanos – Capítulo Detroit, la 4ª Feria Anual de Universidades se llevará a cabo el 12 de abril de 2025 (de 10 AM a 2 PM) en La Casa Guadalupana en el suroeste de Detroit. Este evento ofrece recursos esenciales para estudiantes y familias, asegurando que cuenten con el apoyo necesario para tener éxito en la educación superior.

Los asistentes podrán explorar los stands de universidades incluyendo Davenport University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Wayne State University, University of Detroit Mercy, Schoolcraft College, Henry Ford Community College, Central Michigan University, Oakland University, y College for Creative Studies. El evento también contará con actividades prácticas en STEM, talleres bilingües sobre FAFSA y un panel de profesionales hispanos que inspirarán a los estudiantes a seguir carreras en STEM.

Para más detalles y registro, visita https://college-fair.eventbrite.com

4TA FERIA
UNIVERSITARIA ANUAL
¡Alcanzando Tus Sueños!

TENDREMOS:
- Universidades
- Talleres de FAFSA
- Actividades de STEM
- Panel de Ingenieros
- Sorteo de Laptop y Premios!!

SABADO
Abril 12, 2025

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

La Casa Guadalupana
4330 Central St, Detroit

RESERVA

www.shpedetroit.org
info@shpedetroit.org

EVENTO GRATIS

Organizado Por:
SHPE Detroit Professional
Leading Hispanics in STEM.
LA CASA
Amor y Esperanza
SHPE DÍA de CIENCIAS

Lincoln Park Social Development Coalition Hosts Community Forum

By Kenny Rosas-Aguilera

On Monday, March 31st, the Lincoln Park Social Development Coalition (LPSDC) hosted its second community forum, the first since 2020. The event aimed to address the social needs of residents by focusing on local resources, fostering collaboration among residents, service providers, government agencies, and simplifying access to services and care.

The Lincoln Park Social Development Coalition (LPSDC) was founded in the Fall of 2019 after community members began discussing how to better support neighbors in need of resources. By the end of that year, preparations for a community forum were underway. The first community forum took place in January 2020, attracting over 60 attendees. Since then, the Coalition has grown, with student interns contributing to its success. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the LPSDC continued its work virtually, conducting projects such as the Community Needs Assessment Survey (2021-2022) and the Agency and Provider Survey (2022) to gather valuable community insights. The Coalition has also maintained and regularly updated the Community Resource Guide.

In May 2024, the LPSDC proposed formalizing its operations and integrating into the City of Lincoln Park's decision-making processes, recommending the inclusion of the ad hoc, all-volunteer Coalition into the city's official operations. With all the progress made, it was time to bring the community forum back and invite everyone to participate.

Paula Miller, a founding member and Pastor at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, welcomed attendees to the forum. Kara Hilderbrandt, a founding member, Pastor at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, and member of the Economic Development Committee, introduced the goals of the LPSDC, emphasizing the importance of fostering collaboration and connection within the community.

Leah DuMouchel, a founding member and past City Planner for Lincoln Park, provided updates on the Coalition's activities since 2020. She also highlighted the work of student interns Tara Rucker, a Master's Social Work Intern from Our Lady of the Lake University, and myself, a Bachelor's of Social Work Intern from Wayne State University. We shared our work on the Lincoln Park Community Resource Guide and announced that Bylaws are in the works.

One of the evening's main activities, "Speed Networking," was led by Rebeca Guzman, MSW, School of Social Work Field Instructor. This fast-paced networking session allowed attendees to meet at least five other individuals who live, work, or engage in Lincoln Park activities. Participants introduced themselves, shared information about their organizations or roles, and exchanged business cards and flyers. This networking opportunity helped strengthen connections within the community.

During the forum, Tara Rucker presented the wellbeing indicators for Lincoln Park, highlighting key issues such as physical health, mental health, substance use disorder, poverty, housing security, food security, and exposure to violence. She used a map of the city to show the locations of these challenges and the areas most impacted.

Following Tara's presentation, I provided an update on the 2025 Community Resource Guide. The guide now includes over 120 resources, with more than 20 new additions since 2024. For the first time, it is also available in Spanish to better serve the growing Hispanic population in Lincoln Park. Attendees were given time during the meeting to review the guide, provide feedback, and suggest any corrections or additional resources to include.

The final activity of the evening, "From Ideas to Action – Where Do We Go From Here?", was led by Casey Lee, MSW, Independent Contractor supporting the Coalition's formalization and former WSU student intern. Attendees were divided into small groups to brainstorm the future of Lincoln Park. Each group was given a sheet of paper divided into three sections with the following questions:

1. "Looking ahead 5 years, what do you hope life in Lincoln Park will look like for the community?"
2. "How can today's discussion help move us toward this vision?"
3. "How can we stay connected beyond this event?"

The goal of the forum was to encourage attendees to think about their long-term goals, identify actionable steps to achieve them, and explore ways the community can remain engaged after the event. While there's still much more to discuss, the forum sparked meaningful conversations and laid the foundation for future action.

The forum successfully reunited the community after a challenging few years and opened the door for continued collaboration. The LPSDC's ongoing efforts to connect residents with resources and services are critical to building a stronger Lincoln Park.

For more information on the LPSDC or to access the updated Community Resource Guide, visit their website at www.lincolnparksdc.org or contact the Coalition directly at lincolnparksdc@gmail.com.

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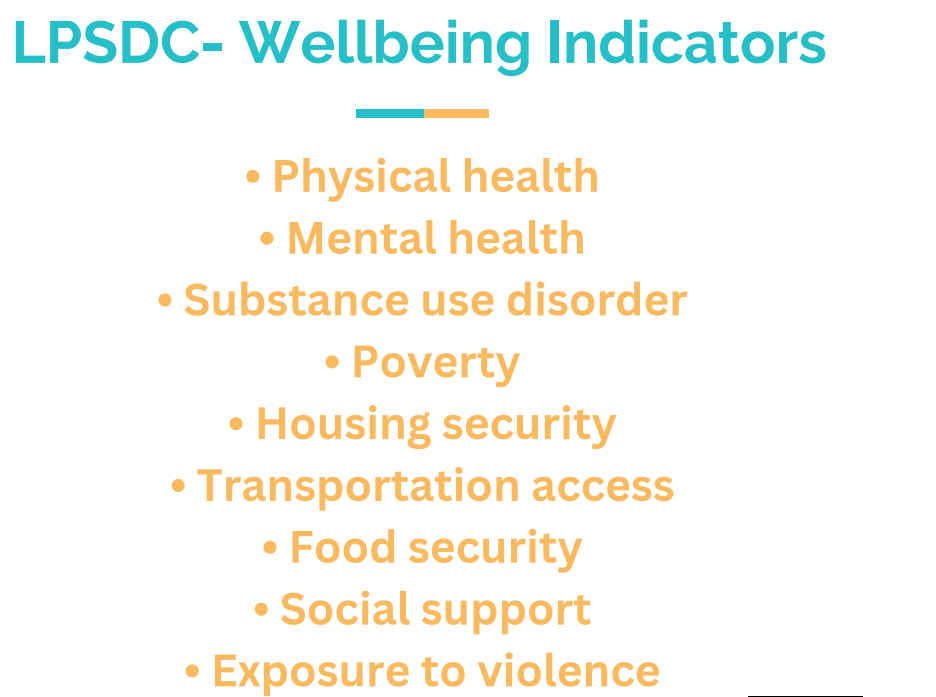
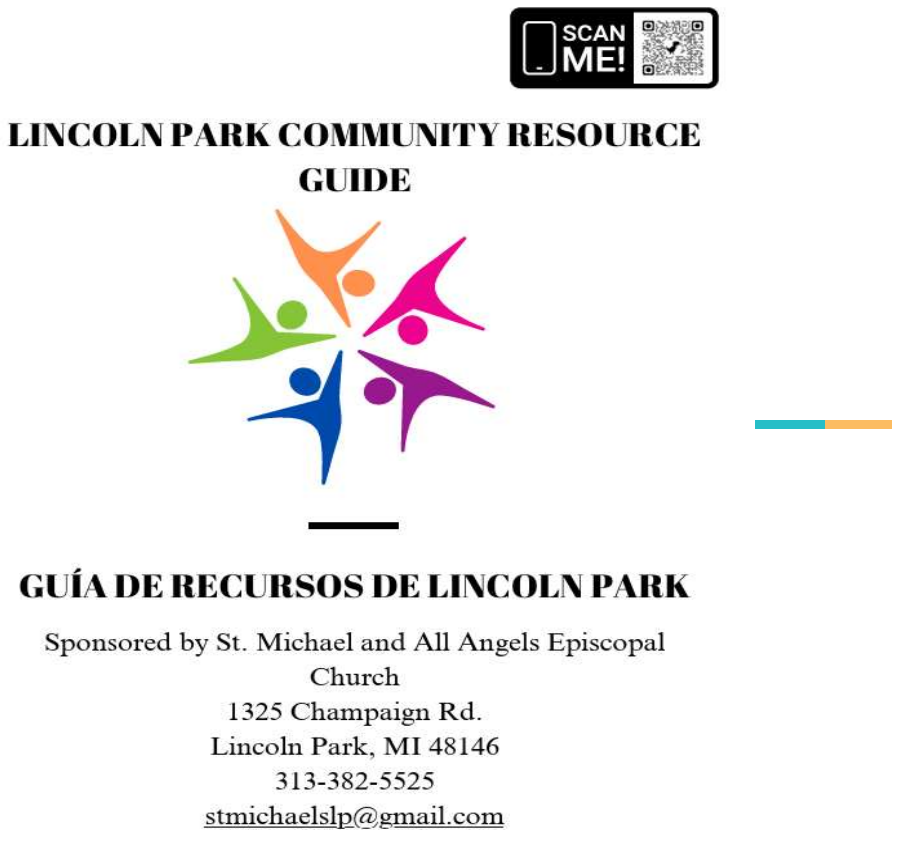
Kenny Rosas-Aguilera is a 24-year old from Detroit. He is a senior at Wayne State University majoring in Social Work. As a student intern with St. Michael's and All Angels Church, he is working with the Lincoln Park Social Development Coalition and is primarily responsible for developing the Coalition's Community Resource Guide.

EL CENTRAL Hispanic News is partially funded by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Forum attendees engage in "Speed Networking" exercise to get to know one another better. Photo Credit Kenny Rosas-Aguilera



THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS!
LPSDC
Kara Hildebrandt - Founding member Social Development Coalition, member EDC, Pastor Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church
Leah DuMouchel- Founding member Social Development Coalition, past LP City Planner, current Community Planner
Rebeca Guzman - MSW, School of Social Work Field Instructor
Tara Rucker - Masters Social Work Intern, Our Lady of the Lake University
Kenny Rosas-Aguilera - Bachelors Social Work Intern, Wayne State University
Casey Lee - MSW, Independent Contractor Supporting Coalition's Formalization, Former WSU Intern
Paula Miller - Founding member Social Development Coalition, Pastor St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church



Un llamado a seguir a Cristo en la 16ª Conferencia de Hombres Hispanos

Con charlas inspiradoras, oración y la presencia del Arzobispo Weisenburger, la 16ª Conferencia de Hombres Hispanos en Detroit reunió a más de 450 hombres para vivir la fe en comunidad

Por Milagros San Martin | Reimpreso de *Detroit Catholic* | Fotos de Daniel Meloy

El pasado sábado 29 de marzo, el Sacred Heart Major Seminary en Detroit fue el escenario de la 16ª Conferencia de Hombres Hispanos, un evento que reunió a aproximadamente 450 hombres.

Desde las 8 a.m., los asistentes participaron en una jornada intensa de reflexión, aprendizaje y oración, que culminó con una Misa presidida por el Obispo Arturo Cepeda y el recientemente instalado Arzobispo Edward Weisenburger, cuya presencia reafirmó su compromiso con la comunidad hispana, que lo recibió con calidez y esperanza.

El encuentro incluyó charlas inspiradoras, momentos de alabanza, una procesión y Hora Santa y la posibilidad de recibir el sacramento de la Reconciliación. Diversos ministerios trabajaron juntos para hacer de esta conferencia una experiencia integral y un testimonio de unidad.

"El trabajo conjunto fue increíble", explicó el Padre Pedro Núñez a Detroit Catholic en español. "Es hermoso ver cómo estos ministerios se unen para un mismo fin, y eso fue clave para el éxito del evento".

El Padre Núñez, quien ofreció dos charlas, compartió su experiencia y su profundo testimonio de fe. El sacerdote de 77 años, quien lleva 47 años de vida sacerdotal, expresó su gratitud por poder servir en eventos como este, en los que la evangelización se lleva a cabo con un enfoque especialmente cercano a las necesidades de los hombres.

"Este evento fue muy bueno en todo sentido", comentó el Padre Núñez. "La dinámica empleada para evangelizar estuvo muy bien adaptada a lo que los hombres necesitaban. Además, la hospitalidad fue maravillosa, todos se sintieron como en casa, y eso es algo muy importante".

El Padre Pedro Núñez ofreció dos charlas profundamente emotivas: "Hijos amados del Padre", en la que reflexionó sobre la importancia de reconocer el amor incondicional de Dios por cada ser humano, y "Ser sanados para sanar", en la que profundizó en la santidad y la sanación personal.

La Conferencia no solo estuvo marcada por una organización impecable, sino también por los mensajes inspiradores de las diferentes charlas.

"Ver la iglesia llena de hombres en la Misa fue algo que me dio mucho gusto, porque a veces el hombre es un poquito más reacio que la mujer para estar más cerca de Dios", añadió. "Varios se fueron con el deseo de un cambio radical en sus vidas, especialmente en sus matrimonios y relaciones familiares".

La identidad del hombre en Cristo

Uno de los momentos clave de la Conferencia fue la charla de apertura a cargo del Padre John Robinson, quien abordó tres temas esenciales: identidad, camino y destino.

Destacó que la crisis de identidad en la sociedad moderna es una de las causas principales de la falta de sentido en la vida de muchos hombres.

"Cada ser humano ha sido creado por Dios a su imagen y semejanza", recordó, enfatizando que la verdadera identidad de cada hombre se encuentra en su relación con el Señor.

El Padre Robinson también habló sobre los "cuatro dragones" que pueden convertirse en trampas y esclavizar el corazón del hombre: el poder, el honor, el dinero y el placer.

"Seguir el camino de Dios y responder a la vocación a la que estamos llamados muchas veces exige un cambio de vida, lo cual puede ser difícil e incluso doloroso", dijo, invitando a los presentes a confiar en la guía de María Santísima en este proceso.

La música de alabanza a cargo del grupo Hombres de Fe del Ministerio de Música de Emaús Pontiac.

En su segunda charla, "Ser sanados para sanar", el Padre Núñez profundizó en la importancia de la santidad y la sanación personal. Habló sobre cómo el resentimiento y las heridas del pasado pueden alejar de la gracia de Dios y de la verdadera vocación.

También hizo un llamado a la perseverancia y a la valentía para comenzar de nuevo. "No te des por vencido, tu perseverancia te llevará a un grado de santidad cada vez más alto. Déjate sanar por Jesús, déjate transformar por Él. Comienza a recibir los sacramentos con mayor frecuencia. Haz una buena confesión y comienza a caminar por el camino de la victoria", concluyó.

Representantes del ministerio hispano saludan al Arzobispo Edward J. Weisenburger después de la Misa en el Sacred Heart Major Seminary el 30 de marzo, donde el arzobispo celebró la liturgia de apertura de la XVI Conferencia de Hombres Hispanos.

A continuación, el Padre Núñez ofreció dos charlas profundamente emotivas. En la primera, titulada "Hijos amados del Padre", reflexionó sobre la importancia de reconocer el amor incondicional de Dios por cada ser humano. Citando a San Agustín, dijo que, aunque Dios creó al ser humano sin su consentimiento, no puede salvarlo sin él.

Explicó que hay dos caminos que se pueden recorrer: el camino de Dios o el camino del mundo, y que cada persona debe cuestionarse qué camino está recorriendo y cómo está llenando el vacío en su corazón: si con las promesas pasajeras del mundo, que solo llevan a la derrota, o con el amor infinito de Dios, que transforma y da vida.

Finalmente, invitó a los presentes a reflexionar sobre cómo están respondiendo al llamado de Dios y qué ejemplo de vida cristiana están dejando a sus hijos.

Para Ricardo Hernández, miembro del ministerio "Jornadas", la conferencia representó una oportunidad única de reunión y fortalecimiento espiritual.

"Fue un éxito. En años anteriores no llegaba tanta gente. Había papás, hijos, muchos que asistieron por primera vez. Fue un evento que tocó muchos corazones. Además, vino el Arzobispo Weisenburger. Fue una sorpresa para mí verlo allí. Su presencia nos demostró que está comprometido con la comunidad hispana y que podemos contar con su apoyo", expresó Ricardo.

"El Padre John de la comunidad de SOLT habló sobre la identidad del hombre. Me hizo reflexionar sobre mi propia experiencia y también, como tengo un grupo de jóvenes menores, me dio ideas sobre cómo puedo adaptar el tema para explicárselo a los jóvenes", explicó Ricardo Hernández.

Una invitación a crecer en la fe

El mensaje final fue claro: Dios sigue llamando a los hombres a ser luz en sus hogares y en sus comunidades.

Durante la Misa final, el Obispo Cepeda cerró la conferencia recordando la bondad de Dios y la oportunidad de renovar la fe. Reflexionó sobre la parábola del hijo pródigo, destacando la misericordia del Padre, que acoge y restaura con amor a sus hijos, incluso cuando se alejan. Invitó a los presentes a preguntarse cómo responden a la misericordia divina y a reconocer sus propias luchas en la familia y la comunidad. Con alegría, los animó a regresar a sus hogares como testigos vivos de su fe, para que su transformación sea evidente en sus vidas y en quienes los rodean.

Para algunos, la Conferencia significó el despertar de una fe tibia; para otros, fue la confirmación de que no están solos en su lucha por vivir una vida cristiana auténtica. Y para todos, fue un recordatorio de que, a pesar de las caídas y los desafíos, siempre es posible volver a levantarse.

"Dios tiene sus planes, pero si uno de todos los asistentes se convierte, para nosotros ya habrá valido la pena", dijo Antonio Camino, actual tesorero de la Conferencia de Hombres Hispanos. Y a juzgar por los rostros iluminados de quienes se marchaban, los frutos de esta jornada apenas comienzan a florecer.

Men receive a powerful call to Christ during 16th Hispanic Men's Conference

More than 450 men experience inspiring talks, moments of reflection, opportunity to meet, pray with Archbishop Weisenburger

By Milagros San Martin | Reprinted from *Detroit Catholic* | Photos by Daniel Meloy

Men gathered for a day of prayer, Eucharistic adoration, worship and fellowship during the Archdiocese of Detroit's 16th Hispanic Men's Conference on March 29. Along with talks from Fr. Pedro Núñez and Fr. John Robinson, SOLT, attendees also had the opportunity to celebrate Mass with Detroit's new leader, Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger, and Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda.

Approximately 450 men gathered March 29 at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit for the 16th Hispanic Men's Conference, and event that included a full day of reflection, learning, and prayer and culminating in a Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda alongside newly installed Detroit Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger, whose presence was welcomed with warmth and hope from members of the Hispanic community.

The event featured inspiring talks, moments of praise, a procession and holy hour, and the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Various ministries collaborated to make the conference a profound experience and a testament to unity.

"The teamwork was incredible," Fr. Pedro Núñez told Detroit Catholic en Español. "It's beautiful to see these ministries come together for a common goal, and that was key to the event's success."

Fr. Núñez, a priest of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and a popular international speaker, gave two talks, sharing his experiences and profound testimony of faith. The 77-year-old priest, who has been in ministry for 47 years, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve at events like this, where evangelization is tailored to meet the needs of men.

"This event was excellent in every way," Fr. Núñez said. "The approach to evangelization was well adapted to what men needed. Plus, the hospitality was wonderful — everyone felt at home, and that's very important."

The conference stood out not only for its impeccable organization, but also for the powerful messages delivered throughout the day.

"Seeing the church filled with men at Mass brought me great joy because, sometimes, men can be a bit more reluctant than women to draw closer to God," he added. "Many left with a desire for a radical change in their lives, especially in their marriages and family relationships."

A man's identity in Christ

One of the highlights of the conference was the opening talk by Fr. John Robinson, SOLT, of Holy Redeemer Parish in Detroit, who addressed three key themes: identity, journey, and destiny.

He emphasized that the identity crisis in modern society is one of the main reasons many men feel lost and without purpose.

"Every human being is created by God in His image and likeness," Fr. Robinson reminded them, stressing that a man's true identity is found in his relationship with the Lord.

Fr. Robinson also spoke about the "four dragons" that can ensnare a man's heart: power, honor, money and pleasure.

"Following God's path and responding to the vocation we are called to often requires a change in life, which can be difficult and even painful," he said, inviting attendees to trust in the guidance of the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout this journey.

Next, Fr. Núñez delivered two deeply moving talks. In the first, titled "Beloved Sons of the Father," he reflected on the importance of recognizing God's unconditional love for every person. Quoting St. Augustine, he said, "God created us without our consent, but He cannot save us without it."

He explained that there are two paths in life: God's path or the world's path. Each person must ask themselves which path they are on and how they are filling the emptiness in their heart — whether with the world's fleeting promises, which lead only to disappointment, or with God's infinite love, which transforms and gives life.

Finally, he invited the men to reflect on how they are responding to God's call and what example of Christian living they are leaving for their children.

In his second talk, "Healed to Heal," Fr. Núñez emphasized the importance of holiness and personal healing. He spoke about how resentment and past wounds can distance people from God's grace and their true calling.

He also encouraged perseverance and courage to start anew.

"Don't give up — your perseverance will lead you to a deeper holiness. Let Jesus heal you, let him transform you. Start receiving the sacraments more frequently. Make a good confession and begin walking the path of victory," he urged.

"Seeing the church full of men at Mass was something that gave me great pleasure, because sometimes men are a little more reluctant than women to be closer to God," Fr. Núñez said.

Fr. Núñez holds a crucifix as he gives one of his two presentations.

For Ricardo Hernández, a member of the "Jornadas" ministry, the conference was a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal and fellowship.

"It was a success. In previous years, we didn't have this many people," Hernández said. "There were fathers, sons, and many first-time attendees. It was an event that touched many hearts. And having Archbishop Weisenburger among us was an unexpected blessing. Seeing him there was a surprise for me. His presence showed us that he is committed to the Hispanic community and that we can count on his support."

An invitation to grow in faith

The final message of the conference was clear: God continues to call men to be a light in their homes and communities.

During the closing Mass, Bishop Cepeda reminded the faithful of God's goodness and the opportunity to renew their faith. Reflecting on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, he highlighted the Father's mercy — always ready to welcome and restore His children with love, even when they stray.

He encouraged those present to ask themselves how they are responding to God's mercy and to recognize their own struggles within their families and communities. With joy, he urged them to return home as living witnesses of their faith so that their transformation would be evident to those around them.

For some, the conference was an awakening from lukewarm faith; for others, it was a confirmation that they are not alone in their journey to live an authentic Christian life. And for all, it was a reminder that despite failures and challenges, it is always possible to rise again.

"God has His plans, but if even one person among all the participants experiences conversion, for us, it will have been worth it," said Antonio Camino, the current treasurer of the Hispanic Men's Conference.

And judging by the radiant faces of those who left, the fruits of this gathering are just beginning to bloom.

A Eucharistic procession through the halls of Sacred Heart Major Seminary allows men to enter into prayer with the Blessed Sacrament.

Michigan Unarmed Combat Sports !!!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Bob Ryder (fightnews.com)

Promoter Carlos Llinas of Clip Promotions, held a three day event at the Radisson hotel in Southfield, MI, this past Friday through Sunday. On Friday, they held professional boxing, on Saturday, they held professional boxing and that night they also had kickboxing, and on Sunday, they had an amateur show with Tony "Superbad" Harrison, Superbad Academy and Metamorphosis Management, which brough in boxers from Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and Indiana, to face each other. A near capacity crowd attended all three events. This was the first time a three day unarmed combat sports event has been held.

Photos below are highlights from the Michigan Unarmed Combat Sports event

Sam Rizzo (L) defeated Kevin Walker (R) by unanimous decision

Lance Smith (R) defeated Josiah Thrash (L) by TKO in the first round (2:24)

Daishaun Bundrage (L, and son of former World Champion K-9 Bundrage) defeated Alex Watson (R) during their debut bout, by TKO in the first round (1:43)

The most succesful promoter of the modern boxing era in Michigan, promoter Carlos Llinas of Clip Promotions. He also promotes the ongoing boxing promotion at the Motor City Casino "Night of the Knockouts"

Michigan Panthers Lose Home Opener

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

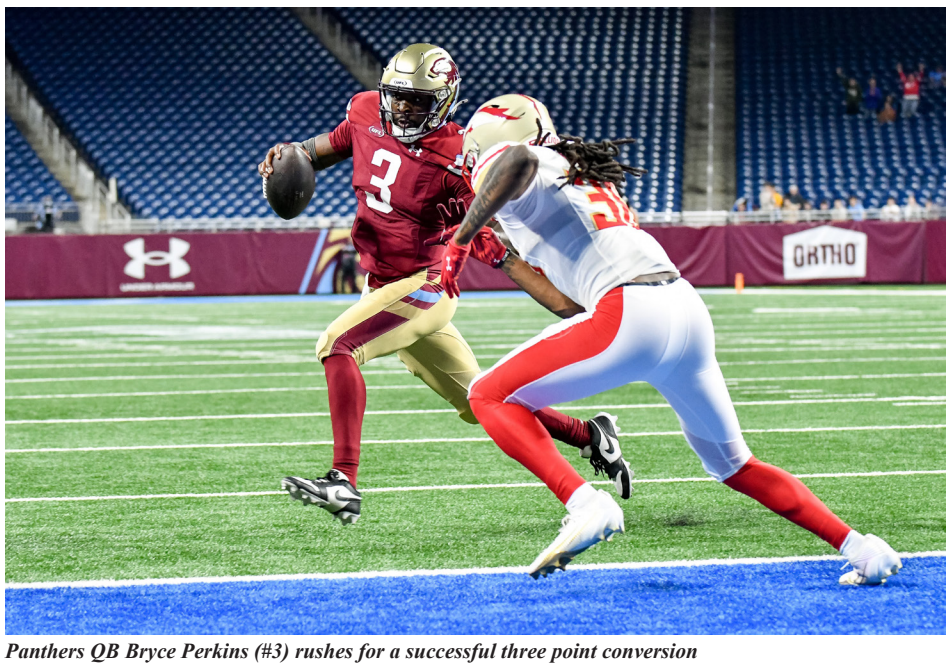
The Michigan Panthers hosted the Birmingham Stallions, this past Friday night at Ford Field.

The Panthers could not stop the Stallions and lost 12 - 21.

The Panthers host the San Antonio Brahmas this Sunday, April 13th, at 12:00 pm (ABC) and the Memphis Showboats on Friday, April 18th at 8:00 pm (FOX) both at Ford Field.

Photos below are highlights from the Michigan Panthers vs. Birmingham Stallions

Matthew Colburn II (#26) sprints through his blocks for a first down



Panthers QB Bryce Perkins (#3) rushes for a successful three point conversion

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

Drab Draw for DCFC

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Cloudy, chilly, damp, and generally un-Spring-like weather greeted Detroit City FC at Keyworth Stadium last weekend. The team must have picked up their vibe from the conditions, because they did little to provide a ray of sunshine for the 5,047 people who braved the conditions to support the home team.

Neither DCFC nor the visitors from Monterey Bay created many goal-scoring opportunities. Apart from a few corner kicks from Ryan Williams, DCFC couldn't turn their possession advantage into threatening actions. The teams played a tough, gritty game and ground out a 0-0 draw. Referee Gerald Flores had the busiest game, whistling 40 fouls and handing out 6 yellow cards, which the teams shared just about equally.

DCFC manager Danny Dichio changed his midfield from previous games. He started Ryan Williams and Connor Rutz at the core with Jeciel Cedeno in the advanced role. Rutz's inclusion provided a more physical presence than Jay Chapman. Williams served as a deep-lying playmaker, attempting to link with Cedeno and the forwards. While Le Rouge controlled much of the midfield play, they never could make consistent connections with the front line.

Goalkeeper Carlos Herrera recorded his first clean sheet with the club as he retained his place in the absence of Carlos Saldana. Much like the duo of Saldana and Nate Steinwascher last year, there has been little drop off between the goalkeepers. That remains a strength of the club. Supported by a sturdy and consistent back four under the guidance of captain Stephen Carroll, Herrera has been eased into the team. He has looked quick off his line, a sharp shot-stopper, and able to play the ball with his feet. With cup matches coming up, having two solid goalkeepers will serve the team well.

Dichio's worries don't come from the defensive side of the ball. That has always been DCFC's best attribute. Creating and finishing opportunities consistently has been the team's bete-noire. Forwards Ben Morris and Darrin Smith had a sharp start in the first three games. The club scored twice per game. Now, they have been shut out twice and effectively shut down by Louisville City and Monterey Bay. While it's not time to panic, Dichio, a former Premier League striker, will have to look at ways to get his most dangerous attackers into more dangerous positions.

Morris left at halftime last Saturday, replaced by Jordan Adebayo-Smith. The loan striker from Minnesota United has a more physical presence, which given the rough and tumble nature of the game came in handy. He can use his muscle against big defenders. However, he didn't get any finishing chances during his forty-five minutes of action. That's the biggest problem.

The lack of opportunities may cause Dichio to tinker again with the midfield selection. Williams looks certain to keep his role. In addition to being able to control play from deep, he is the top set piece taker. Rutz looked out of place in a deeper role. He wasn't able to get involved in the attack like he usually does when positioned closer to the opponent's goal. Cedeno contributes some deft touches here and there, but hasn't yet shown he can be the type of attacking midfield option City had the previous four years with Maxi Rodriguez.

On Saturday night, DCFC will play against Phoenix Rising in Arizona. The hosts are living up to their name coming off an impressive 2-1 win in San Antonio against a previously unbeaten opponent. The Rising have an up and coming manager in Pa Modou Kah, who had a lengthy career playing at various levels in the United States. With their first win of the season, the team will be fired up for the arrival of DCFC. It's going to be a tough road game for DCFC, one they will want to use to end a three match winless run. The club then has a quick turnaround as DCFC enters the third round Lamar Hunt US Open Cup on Wednesday April 16 against USL League One Westchester County SC. The teams will meet later in the Jagermeister Cup (for USL Championship and League One teams), as well. The Open Cup game may be a chance for Dichio to rotate the squad a little, giving a few players a deserved breather, while retaining enough quality to see off their lower division visitors.

Detroit City Mens Draw Home Opener, and Indoor Womens In Playoffs !!!

Photo provided by Adam J Dewey and Watch Party ad by Detroit City FC

Detroit City FC played to a hard-fought 0-0 draw with Monterey Bay FC at historic Keyworth Stadium on Saturday afternoon, and this was the club's second clean sheet of the 2025 USL Championship season.

Despite controlling nearly 57% of the possession, and winning the xG battle (1.10 to 0.61), Le Rouge failed to score for the second consecutive match, meaning the points were split at Keyworth Stadium for the second consecutive home match.

Next up, Detroit City FC hits the road for a 10 PM ET kickoff against Phoenix Rising this Saturday before returning home on Wednesday, April 16 for a Third Round match in the 2025 US Open Cup against Westchester SC of USL League One.

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit detcityfc.com and follow @DetroitCityFC on X and Facebook and @detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Midfielder Ryan Williams (#39) looks to make a pass, during Saturday's game

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1 oldest, largest, genuinely local and only bi-lingual Hispanic news. Minority (Hispanic) and woman owned. Multi-year winner of Jose Marti National Award for excellence in Editorial and Design. Published in Metro Detroit since 1988.

EL CENTRAL informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino/a community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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EL CENTRAL is a weekly publication. The deadline for articles and ads is noon, Monday prior to publication. The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Managing Editor.

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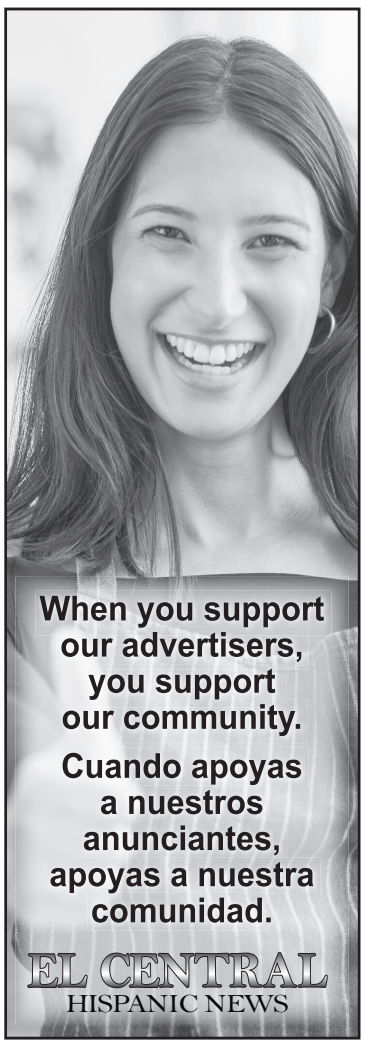
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"We Need Tomorrows Just as Much as We Need Yesterdays":
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15th Annual **La Academia Del Pueblo**
Latina/o/x and Latin American Studies Research Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Annmarie Caño, Ph.D. is a professor of psychology at Gonzaga University, as well as a licensed clinical psychologist and a certified executive coach. Her forthcoming book with Johns Hopkins University Press (July 2025), *Leading Toward Liberation: How to Build Cultures of Thriving in Higher Education* is a leadership guide based on Latin American liberation praxis.

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las.wayne.edu/academia-del-pueblo

COMMUNITY PANEL

Voces: The Southwest Detroit Oral History Project is comprised of a group of community artists, scholars and leaders, including WSU CLLAS alumni Osvaldo Rivera and Aaron Barndollar. This project aims to thoroughly document the history of the Latino/a/x community in Detroit, which has roots dating back more than 100 years.

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1050 Porter St.
Detroit, MI 48226
Misa: Dom 9am

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313-496-1701
1000 St. Anne St.
Detroit, MI 48216
Misa: Dom 10am

First Latin American Baptist Church
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Detroit, MI 48209
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Martes: 6:00pm
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I DON'T LIKE LOOKING PEOPLE IN THE EYE
Jacob Sanchez
Diagnosed with autism
Lack of eye contact is a sign of autism.
Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs.
AUTISM SPEAKS

HANDS OFF! Rallies Spur National Outrage

On Saturday, April 5, thousands of people turned out in Detroit and several communities across Michigan joined by millions of voters around the country to protest the actions of the Trump Administration and the unelected and unconfirmed Elon Musk. Voters took to the streets in Blue states and Red states alike. Protestors numbered between 6,000 and 10,000 in Detroit and thousands more met in Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Ferndale, Grand Rapids, Novi, Wyandotte and Ypsilanti.

The day of national protest was the first national mobilization against oligarchy, mass deportation, dismantling of needed government programs including education, EPA, USAID, Medicaid and Social Security benefits earned by Americans.

The protest organizers are calling for protests in all 50 states against the Trump administration again on Saturday, April 19. For more details about upcoming events, visit www.mobilize.us

Photos below are from the HANDS OFF! Rally from the DIA down to the LCA and back

HANDS OFF crowd in front of the DIA - Michigan Advance

SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Bolivia

Basilica of Our Lady of Copacabana

On the shores of Lake Titicaca, in the city of Copacabana, lies the Basilica of the Virgin of Candelaria of Copacabana. The Basilica was built between 1550 and 1679 in a Moorish Renaissance architectural style. However, the image of the Virgin of Candelaria was not placed in the chapel until 1583.

The Virgin of Candelaria of Copacabana is known as the crowned queen of Bolivia, and her festivities are celebrated the first week of February, in commemoration of Candlemas Day on February 2.

The sculpture depicting the Virgin of Candelaria, also known as the Dark Virgin, was sculpted around 1576 by the grandson of Inca Túpac Yupanqui, the artist Francisco Tito Yupanqui.

The Basilica of Our Lady of Candelaria in Copacabana has an open-air arcade area known as the Open Chapel, which has been used for open-air masses and religious celebrations when the number of parishioners exceeded the church's capacity.

It is said that around 1576, some fishermen were caught in a storm on Lake Titicaca. Out of desperation, they began to pray and ask the gods. However, the Virgin Mary appeared to them and guided them to safety.

They decided to build a sanctuary for her worship in gratitude for the favor she had granted them. News of the great miracles granted by Our Lady of Candelaria spread throughout Bolivia and even Peru, leading many faithful to visit her year after year.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Bolivia

Bolivia is one of the South American countries that showcases vast cultural wealth, as well as a great diversity of ecosystems ranging from the Amazon rainforest, the desert regions of Uyuni, the mountainous areas, and the Andean region.

The Tiwanaku archaeological site, built in 400 BC, was the center of the Tiwanaku civilization, a pre-Incan culture. The city of Tiwanaku is characterized by its

architecture decorated with reliefs and incised planes placed on stelae; it is composed of seven important architectural structures: Kalasasaya, a semi-subterranean temple, the Akapana pyramid, the Gate of the Sun, Puma Punku, and a temple, as well as large pyramids and sculptures.

Bolivia is also home to the Salar de Uyuni, the largest salt flat in the world, where the salt water bodies make sunsets look breathtaking. Bolivia shares Lake Titicaca with Peru, which sits at an altitude of 3,812 meters above sea level and has an estimated depth of 104 meters, making it the highest navigable lake in the world.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Bolivia

Basílica de la Virgen de la Candelaria de Copacabana

A orillas del Lago Titicaca, en la ciudad de Copacabana, se encuentra ubicada la Basílica de la Virgen de la Candelaria de Copacabana. La Basílica fue construida entre 1550 y 1679 utilizando un estilo arquitectónico Morisco renacentista. Sin embargo, la imagen de la Virgen de la Candelaria fue colocada en la capilla hasta 1583.

A la Virgen de la Candelaria de Copacabana se la conoce como la reina coronada de Bolivia y sus fiestas se celebran la primera semana de febrero, en conmemoración al día de la candelaria el 2 de febrero de cada año.

La escultura con la imagen de la Virgen de la Candelaria, a la que también se la llama Virgen Morena, fue esculpida cerca de 1576 por el nieto del Inca Túpac Yupanqui, el artista Francisco Tito Yupanqui.

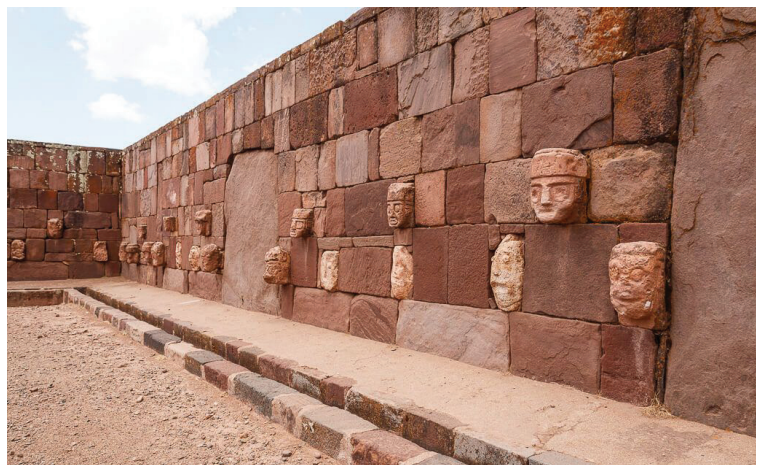
El conjunto de la Basílica de la Virgen de la Candelaria de Copacabana, cuenta con un área de arquería sin techos que se conoce como la Capilla Abierta, que ha servido para oficiar misas y celebraciones religiosas al aire libre cuando la cantidad de feligreses excede la capacidad del templo.

Cuentan que cerca de 1576 unos pescadores quedaron atrapados en una tormenta en el lago Titicaca, por la desesperación se pusieron a orar y pedir a los dioses, sin embargo, María la Virgen se les apareció y los guió para que lograran llegar a un lugar seguro, por lo que decidieron construirle un santuario para su adoración en agradecimiento.

Bolivia

Bolivia es uno de los países suramericanos que muestra una vasta riqueza cultural, así como una gran diversidad de ecosistemas que van desde la selva amazónica, las regiones desérticas de Uyuni, las zonas montañosas y la región andina.

El sitio arqueológico Tiwanaku, construido en el 400 antes de Cristo, siendo el centro de la civilización tiahuanacota, una cultura preincaica. La ciudad de Tiahuanaco se caracteriza por su arquitectura decorada con relieves y planos incisos colocados sobre estelas; está compuesta por siete construcciones arquitectónicas importantes: Kalasasaya, templete semisubterráneo, pirámide de Akapana, Puerta del Sol, Puma Punku y templete, también grandes pirámides y esculturas.



En Bolivia se encuentra también el Salar de Uyuni, el cual es el desierto de sal más grande del mundo, donde los espejos de agua de sal hacen que los atardeceres parezcan alucinantes.

Bolivia comparte con Perú el Lago Titicaca que se encuentra a una altitud de 3812 metros sobre el nivel del mar y con una profundidad estimada de 104 metros, siendo el Lago navegable más alto del mundo.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

MANA DE METRO DETROIT 30th ANNIVERSARY
LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, SERVICE

Now Accepting SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Six (6) Scholarship types are available - multiple will be given

All Applications due by April 16, 2025

Do NOT need to be a member to apply

For more information and to apply, visit our website using the barcode or link below

APPLY TODAY

- MANA de Metro Detroit General Scholarship
- Carmen Muñoz Entrepreneurship Scholarship
- Monica L. Martinez Leadership Scholarship
- Ellen Ochoa STEM Scholarship
- Gloria Rosas Teacher Education Scholarship
- Eva Garza Dewaelsche Community Service Scholarship

https://www.manademetrodetroit.com/#scholarships

CINCO DE MILE

5k Fun Run

MAY 3RD

RUN For Mental Health Awareness in Southwest Detroit! All Ages welcome.

Saturday
May 3rd 2025
Starting At 8:30am

Location: Clark Park
1130 Clark Ave,
Detroit, MI 48209

https://bit.ly/DTL-5k-FunRun

(313) 495-0228

Presented by the Alpha Lambda Graduate Chapter of Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Incorporated

UNI Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
Building Vital Neighborhoods

Mental Health Advocates

Proceeds Benefit Urban Neighborhood Initiative's Mental Health & Wellness programs

REGISTER